



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Pobail, Turasóireachta & Cultúir
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceannchearthú Chorpóraideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
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10th March 2022

To/ The Mayor and each Member of Limerick and City Council

Local Community Development Committee –Annual Report 2021

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A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 Section 128B(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 please find herewith the Annual Report on the activities of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee for the year ending 31st December 2021.

Is mise le meas,

Seamus O'Connor
LCDC Chief Officer
Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE (LCDC) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

1st March 2022

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2021. The report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2 Section 128 B(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is: “not later than 31 March in each year, to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submitted”.

Background Legislation

Section 49A of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees for the purposes of:

- Developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.
- To prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- To implement, or arrange for the implementation of, the community elements of the Plan.
- To review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and, if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan.
- To monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the community elements of the Plan.
- To coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g. government department, State agency etc.).
- To improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication.
- In addition to public-funded programmes, to coordinate generally the local and community development programmes within the operational area of the LCDC.
- to consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard, and
- To prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

LCDC Membership

The Limerick LCDC was established in July 2014 and has 19 members, which includes representatives from the statutory (“public”) and non-statutory (“private”) sectors drawn from the Limerick City and

County Council administrative area. The tenure for sitting on the LCDC expired for a number of members in 2021 and this saw new members being appointed to the LCDC during the year.

LCDC Membership 2021

Cllr Michael Collins (Chairperson)	LCCC
Cllr Stephen Keary (Vice Chair)	LCCC
Cllr Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Gordon Daly	LCCC
Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development Company
Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership
Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources
James Prior	Public Participation Network
Linda Ledger	Public Participation Network
David Tobin	Public Participation Network
Tony Lynch	Public Participation Network
Leona O'Callaghan	Public Participation Network
George O'Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Diarmuid Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Anne Ryan	Health Service Executive
Dee Ryan	Limerick Chamber of Commerce
Barry Murphy	Agricultural Sector
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service

Supports to LCDC

In accordance with Section 128A of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council has designated a person to act as "Chief Officer" of the LCDC: Mr Seamus O'Connor.

Meetings and other supports are provided to the Limerick LCDC by the Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

Progress / Achievements in 2021

Despite the challenges in 2021, arising from the COVID 19 Pandemic, the LCDC performed its functions effectively. The LCDC met 10 times in 2021 with 9 meetings held online during the year in accordance with COVID 19 requirements. There was one meeting held in person as a blended meeting with members being able to attend in person or join online. The meetings ensured that the committee was very active in the performance of its functions. The LCDC oversaw, and made decisions, when required in relation to the Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP), the EU LEADER Programme and various grants schemes that come under the responsibility of the LCDC. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the LEADER Programme was also completed in response to the needs of the community sector. In addition to the LCDC meetings, subgroup meetings also took place in relation to

SICAP annual performance review and preparation of the 2021 Annual Plans for SICAP, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick programme implementation and evaluation of applications for various grant schemes such as the Community Activities Fund.

Strategies

The LCDC, in the delivery of its functions, has full regard to all relevant statutory requirements and in particular the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the Local Development Strategy for Rural Development (LDS). The objectives and agreed actions contained in above plans are critical to the operation and outcomes of the LCDC to ensure consistency and coordination of all LCDC actions.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme in three areas or Lots: Limerick Urban Area, Limerick West Rural and Limerick East Rural. SICAP is the main social inclusion programme in the state operating under the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and delivered in urban and rural Limerick by the three Local Development Companies (LDCs). During 2021, the LCDC approved payments of some €2.25 million to the Limerick LDCs - PAUL Partnership (Limerick Urban Area), West Limerick Resources (Limerick West Rural) and Ballyhoura Development (Limerick East Rural) - for delivery of SICAP, meeting the Key Performance Indicators set for the programme. Following a mid-programme review of SICAP across the state, requested by Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD, a Statement of Priorities for the 2022 and 2023 programme in Limerick was prepared for their areas by the LDCs and approved by the LCDC in Autumn 2021. Following from this, the Annual Plans for the 2022 programme were prepared by the LDCs, for approval by the LCDC. Mid-Year and End of Year Reviews of the Annual Plans for 2021 were undertaken in each of the Limerick Lots, and approved by the LCDC. In the last quarter of 2021, the budget for SICAP was increased nationally. The Limerick Lots were allocated an increase in the budget of between 5% (minimum) and 10% (maximum). From 2022, the Limerick SICAP annual budget is increased to €2.39 million. During 2021, the LDCs successfully delivered support programmes to local community groups and individuals in the target groups at risk of social exclusion, despite the on-going difficulties presented by COVID-19 restrictions. SICAP proved to be an important source of support to communities and groups worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. The established relationships between the LCDC / Council and the three Local Development Companies led to an efficient, evidence-based and coordinated delivery of COVID 19 supports across the city and county.

LEADER Programme (2014-2022)

The delivery of the LEADER Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2021 and applications from various community and specific interest groups continued to be sought by the Local Development Companies. The LCDC, as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme completed the allocation of the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme Budget and approved projects funded under the additional €500,000 received from the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2018. In 2021 a total of €1,895,485 under the LEADER Transitional Programme and €843,327.00 from the European Recovery Instrument Fund (EURI) was allocated.

In 2021 the LCDC approved 11 Projects to the value of €663,678.88. In addition to the above, funding of €176,889.15 was allocated for 1 LEADER Food Projects (see Appendix 1 for further details).

The Council continued to manage the EU LEADER audit checks (Article 48 audit checks) on projects and claims and these were successfully carried out by the LCDC support staff.

Healthy Limerick Programme

The LCDC oversees the delivery of Healthy Limerick. In 2019, the LCDC successfully applied for €246,050 Healthy Ireland funding covering a range of cross-sectoral initiatives originally up to June 2021. This date was extended to December 2021 and due to covid restrictions was further extended with a final request to complete the spend on Round 3 funding by end of March 2022. Additional funding in the amount of €46,355 was made available to continue programmes and provide additional works on large actions including Baggot Estate, the Social and Health Education Programme (SHEP) and the Limerick Food Partnership.

Other initiatives included to completion of a Biodiversity Garden at Baggot Estate and the installation of a Tovertafel table in Newcastlewest Library with plans for the Kilmallock library table to be in place and training completed by end of current programme.

The funding also supported the installation of touch free water drinking fountains in Limerick City & County and the continuation of training through SHEP (the Social and Health Education Programme) who continued with their training/classes online during COVID 19, which proved very successful and funding allowed for additional training until March 2022.

The Limerick Healthy Ireland programme also allocated 15 small grants (€2,000) to Community Mental Health projects, which were delivered by community and voluntary bodies who needed to address issues presenting due to COVID 19. These included fitness, wellness and positive mental health projects and some of those supported included the Limerick Autism Group, Children's Grief Centre, Hospital Family Resource Centre and Croom Family Resource Centre to name a few.

Other Programmes

Community Enhancement Programme

In 2021, the LCDC Secured €168,000 under the Community Enhancement Programme which provides funding to community groups to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The purpose of the scheme was to assist groups/organisations with:

- grants towards projects or equipment enhancing facilities (similar to previous years)
- one-off grants towards costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of a facility.

The key theme of this year's programme is supporting groups as they their re-open facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19.

- A total of 41 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Covid 19 Emergency Funding Round 2

The LCDC also secured €62,071 under the Covid Emergency Fund Round 2 funding stream. The purpose of the scheme was to assist groups/organisations to:

- adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
 - become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.
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- A total of 39 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme

The LCDC was allocated €39,883.29 under the 2021 Social Enterprise Capital Grants scheme. The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 provides funding for the purchase of equipment or the carrying out of repairs or refurbishments to enable social enterprises to improve their service delivery. The scheme supports one of the key commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 – “Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise”.

- A total of 12 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Community Activities Fund

In December 2021, the LCDC were also allocated €305,884 under the Community Activities Fund as a €9 million fund was announced to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department’s Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and the final approval of grants will be a matter for the LCDC. This funding is about giving a helping hand to our communities, local groups and clubs.

The Community Activities Fund supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with the following:

- Non-pay running costs for example utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Only running/operating costs relating to 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 are eligible.
- Funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The LCDC worked to ensure that the community funding streams such as Community Activities Fund was allocated in a balanced manner throughout the city and county. A number of sub groups, including

project assessment sub groups for the above funding streams met throughout the year to assist the LCDC in the delivery of its functions.

- A total of 160 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Conclusion

The active participation of all members of the Local Community Development Committee during 2021 led to a very successful year for the Committee despite the challenges of 2021. The targets and deadlines set out at the beginning of the year were achieved. The completion of the full allocation of the EU LEADER Programme and the continuing approval of projects under the transitional LEADER programme has enabled many local communities to commence their projects. Oversight and flexibility around the SICAP Programme in response to COVID 19 resulted in the delivery of more appropriate and meaningful supports to disadvantaged persons and communities. All funding approvals made by the members of the LCDC are notified to the Elected Members of the Council by 15:00 hrs the day after an LCDC meeting. As agreed in 2021 the Agenda of the meeting is notified to Elected Members of the Full Council in advance of the meeting. The engagement of the Committee, at both local and national level, has yielded many positive outcomes and the members are committed to continuing this for the betterment of all citizens and communities in Limerick. The Chairman acknowledges the commitment of all members and in particular those who contribute on a voluntary basis and looks forward to building on the achievements to date.



Cllr Michael Collins
Chairperson



Seamus O'Connor
LCDC Chief Officer

Appendix 1 – LEADER Projects approved 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Promoter/Applicant	Project Title	Address	LEADER Grant Amount	Sub Theme	Date of LAG Meeting
Olive Sheehan	Barnagh Greenway Hub Playground	Barnagh, Newcastle West, Limerick.	€16,699.72	Rural Tourism	02/03/2021
Ballylanders Development Association	Village Playground	Ballylanders, Limerick.	€39,914.84	Rural Towns	04/05/2021
Murroe Wood Park CLG	Murroe Town Park Playground	Murroe, Limerick.	€109,387.50	Rural Youth	04/05/2021
South Liberties GAA Club	Refurbishment and Extension of Walking Track	Ballyneety, Limerick.	€22,864.00	Rural Towns	01/06/2021
Garryspillane GAA Club	Walkway Upgrade - Further Development	Garryspillane, Limerick	€7,462.50	Rural Towns	20/07/2021
Apollo Lighting Ltd	Apollo Film and Television Lighting Services and Training Project	Lisnagry, Limerick	€165,000.00	Enterprise Development	20/07/2021
Croom Community Development Association CLG	Croom Civic Centre	Croom, Limerick.	€200,000.00	Rural Towns	07/09/2021
Herbertstown & District Men's Shed	The Store Village Centre Feasibility Study	Herbertstown, Limerick	€26,584.60	Basic Services targeted at Hard to Reach Communities	06/10/2021
Lough Gur Pottery	Lough Gur Pottery Centre	Lough Gur, Limerick	€37,521.72	Enterprise Development	06/10/2021
RJR Leisure Ltd T-A Rollerjam	Rollerjam Upgrade Works	Ballysimon, Limerick	€18,112.50	Enterprise Development	06/10/2021
Angela and John Normoyle t/a Fanningstown House	Fanningstown House Enhancement Project	Fanningstown, Patrickswell, Limerick	€20,131.50	Rural Tourism	06/10/2021
Total Approved			€663,678.88		
LEADER Food Projects					
Twomey's Bakery Ltd	Twomey's Dough on Demand	Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick	€176,889.15	LEADER Food	01/06/2021